

### From IEMA Director James K. Joseph

In less than a month, Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria brought unimaginable destruction and heartbreak to millions of Americans. At IEMA, we have received countless calls and emails from Illinois residents wanting to help hurricane survivors. The most effective way to support response and recovery efforts is by donating money and time to trusted voluntary, faith- and community-based charitable organizations. This allows these reputable organizations to obtain needed resources nearer to the disaster location and more efficiently manage logistics and transportation costs related to moving large volumes of donated items.

The National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) lists trusted organizations receiving donations, many of which are already coordinating relief and response efforts in the impacted areas. A list of vetted organizations is available on the NVOAD website at [www.nvoad.org/howtohelp](http://www.nvoad.org/howtohelp). The site also contains information about volunteer opportunities in hurricane-impacted areas with local and nationally known organizations.

We continue to closely monitor the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) system for requests from the impacted states and have been in contact with emergency management officials in those areas to express our willingness and ability to provide assistance. I've also been in contact with many of our response partners, who are maintaining a state of readiness for potential deployment.

Given the vast destruction in Puerto Rico, it's obvious the response phase will continue for days if not weeks, and recovery will take years. I appreciate the dedication and commitment of Illinois' response community toward providing assistance to our fellow Americans in their time of greatest need.

The hurricanes were on the forefront of many attendees' minds and the topic of many conversations during IEMA's 21st annual Training Summit Sept. 5-7. I believe these disasters gave greater significance to the knowledge, skills and insight our general and breakout session speakers offered, which will help each of us as we continually strive to prepare for any type of catastrophic event. As always, thank you for your service to the people of this great state.



**Former Columbine High School Principal Frank DeAngelis closed the IEMA Training Summit with powerful insight into the tragic shooting and the event's long-lasting impacts on everyone involved.**

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# 2017 IEMA Training Summit Highlights



Phil Anello, IEMA's Chief Accountability Officer, was one of 30 individuals recognized for renewing their Illinois Professional Emergency Manager (IPEM) certification for two years during the IPEM and Professional Development Series recognition ceremony at the summit. Anello is one of two people from the 2002 inaugural IPEM class still maintaining their certification. Anello received his renewal from Director James K. Joseph and Dawn Cook, vice-president of the Illinois Emergency Services Management Association.



During an emotional and gripping presentation about the deadly 1999 shooting that forever changed his life and those of many others, former Columbine High School Principal Frank DeAngelis offered invaluable insight into the difficult issues survivors and families of the deceased face after such a tragedy.



Rev. K.J. Joseph presented the invocation during the opening session at the Training Summit. Rev. Joseph is the father of IEMA Director James K. Joseph.



Matt Rybar of Alpha Consulting Group provided a demonstration of a drone to summit participants outside the Bank of Springfield Center.



IEMA staff were among several summit attendees who donated blood to the American Red Cross blood drive. Pictured here are Cheryl Head, Bureau of Radiation Safety, and Assistant Director Joe Klinger.



One of IEMA's vehicles sporting new signage caught the eye of many summit attendees. Agency staff were on hand to answer questions and demonstrate vehicle features.



# 2017 IEMA Training Summit Highlights



IEMA Director James Joseph recognized Jay Reardon during the summit's opening session for his dedicated service and commitment to supporting and advancing emergency management and public safety in Illinois. Reardon recently retired as chief executive officer of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System.



During a breakout session, Gary Forsee of IEMA's Bureau of Radiation Safety shared information on how first responders can stay safe if they encounter radioactive materials in the line of duty.



(from left) Kim Tegeler, City of Effingham Emergency Management Agency, Steve Schindlbeck, Naperville Police Department, and Alicia Tate-Nadeau, executive director of Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications, shared lessons learned from emergency planning for large-scale planned events during a general session on the first day of the summit.



# 2017 IEMA Training Summit Highlights



Participants in three Starcom21 breakout sessions received hands-on training on use of the radios.



Six sponsors and 28 vendors offered a variety of information to summit participants in the exhibition hall.



Mike Bardou of the National Weather Service's Romeoville office explained how NWS offices that cover Illinois can help outdoor event planners ensure participant safety when severe weather approaches.

# Coordination on Sampling Enhances Efficiency

One of IEMA's critical missions is to protect public health and safety and the environment from the potentially harmful effects of ionizing radiation. In support of that mission, IEMA conducts environmental monitoring for the presence of radionuclides in the environs of the uranium hexafluoride processing facility in Metropolis.

Air, water, soil, sediment and vegetation samples are collected from designated sampling locations on a routine basis. IEMA then tests these samples in its laboratory for the presence of radionuclides, and results are evaluated on both an individual and long-term basis.

IEMA maintains four environmental monitoring stations in Metropolis. Air particulate filters are exchanged weekly at each of these locations. For many years, the Bureau of Radiation Safety has deployed Springfield-based personnel to Metropolis to conduct exchanges of air particulate filters. This resulted in a 450-mile round trip each week.

As the agency continues to focus on maximizing efficiencies and leveraging resources, Bureau of Radiation Safety staff recently decided to coordinate with IEMA's Region 11 office in Marion for sample collection. The Region 11 Coordinator Chris Pulley was trained on proper sample handling and how to exchange air particulate filters.

In July, Pulley began conducting sampling in Metropolis three of every four weeks. Staff from the Bureau of Radiation Safety make the trip every four

weeks to maintain situational awareness, provide replacement sampling devices as needed, and periodically collect other types of samples.

After Pulley removes air particulate filters from the air sampling station, they are placed in sample envelopes and mailed to Springfield for testing by staff in the agency's Radiochemistry Lab.

This initiative has significantly reduced travel time associated with environmental monitoring in Metropolis. As such, it allows more time for Bureau of Radiation Safety staff to work on other critical projects, including data management of sample analyses, creation of lower limits of detection for analysis request and cross training to new responsibilities.



**An air particulate filter is removed from the sampling head using forceps to ensure sample integrity.**



Marilyn Haycraft, Bureau of Radiation Safety, was recently recognized by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) during an on-site review of IEMA's Mammography Program. Haycraft was recognized for her many years and contributions as the Certifying Agency Coordinator for the state's Mammography Quality Assurance Standards Act (MQSA) program. Under MQSA, IEMA certifies most mammography facilities in the state to ensure women in Illinois have access to quality mammography, a key tool in the early detection of breast cancer.

Pictured with Haycraft (center) are MaryAnn Spohrer, Bureau of Radiation Safety (left); Preetham Sudhaker, FDA; Normica Facey, FDA; and Jeff Sincek, FDA.



## Grants Awarded to Enhance Emergency Operations Centers

IEMA recently awarded a total of \$500,000 in grants to 32 county emergency management agencies to enhance their emergency operations centers.

To be considered for a grant, an emergency management agency was required to be compliant with National Incident Management System requirements, have a current, approved emergency operations plan, and have a functional emergency operations center.

Forty-seven emergency management agencies submitted grant applications, which were competitively evaluated by state and local public safety representatives with priority given to counties with the greatest need. Representatives of county and municipal emergency management also provided input on the eligible items list in order to best benefit county emergency management agencies.

Items eligible for purchase with the grant funds include PCs, laptops, projectors, printers, phones, radio base stations, portable projectors, screens, white boards and furniture for the emergency operations center.

Grants were awarded to the following county emergency management agencies:

Alexander County	\$21,734.30	Henry County	\$24,995.28	Montgomery County	\$16,223.00
Brown County	\$24,995.70	Iroquois County	\$17,850.00	Perry County	\$24,982.00
Carroll County	\$ 6,744.00	Jefferson County	\$ 6,176.77	Pike County	\$20,879.40
Christian County	\$ 5,520.00	Jo Daviess County	\$24,900.00	Putnam County	\$24,998.00
Clay County	\$ 5,990.64	Logan County	\$12,050.00	Shelby County	\$13,322.00
Coles County	\$17,838.47	Marshall County	\$ 9,575.00	Stephenson County	\$22,168.47
Cumberland County	\$12,352.91	Mason County	\$21,462.98	Wabash County	\$12,500.00
Edgar County	\$18,670.00	Massac County	\$ 8,200.00	Wayne County	\$11,770.00
Effingham County	\$12,400.00	Menard County	\$ 8,294.00	White County	\$13,580.00
Fayette County	\$ 9,422.97	Mercer County	\$25,000.00	Woodford County	\$ 6,439.66
Fulton County	\$14,000.00	Monroe County	\$24,964.45		

## Vinson Presents Comments on Security Measures

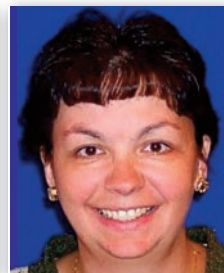
Gibb Vinson, Bureau of Radiation Safety, recently presented comments on pending security measures for certain research, medical and industrial sources at the Organization of Agreement States' (OAS) annual meeting.

OAS provides a mechanism for Agreement States, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), FBI and the regulated community to coordinate the oversight of radioactive material on a national level.

NRC and the Agreement States are considering the best options for additional oversight for lower activity International Atomic Energy Agency category 3 sources that will maximize security while limiting the financial and regulatory burden on smaller licensed facilities.



**Gibb Vinson**



**Mary Burkhardt**

The Radioactive Materials Section at IEMA currently performs security reviews for every radioactive materials license application, renewal and amendment to ensure sources only end up in the possession of legitimate and qualified manufacturers, medical personnel, researchers and industrial users.

### ***Burkhart Recognized***

Mary Burkhardt of the Radioactive Materials Section has participated in the NUREG 1556, Vol. 19, Medical Use Licenses Working Group for several years. During the OAS meeting, Burkhardt was recognized for her participation in this effort to streamline the regulatory process for hundreds of medical institutions in Illinois and nationally.

# Scholarship Aims to Advance Radon Industry

Testing homes for the presence of radioactive radon gas is important for everyone in Illinois. If radon levels are 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L), it is recommended a mitigation system be installed to reduce levels of radon, which is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S.

Unfortunately, in 21 southern Illinois counties, there is a shortage of both radon measurement and mitigation professionals. In fact, some counties in that region have had no professional home testing completed.

To address that issue, IEMA and the American Lung Association in Illinois are partnering to offer scholarship funding for southern Illinois residents interested in becoming a licensed radon measurement or mitigation professional or technician. The Southern Illinois Radon Industry Advancement Program will provide resources for contractors, plumbers, home inspectors or other trade personnel interested in expanding their current services, or residents looking to create a new business.

A total of five scholarships are available on a first-come, first-served basis for either radon measurement or mitigation. The scholarship will cover the cost of the online licensure course with access to support resources, cost of licensing exam fees and license application fees, and hands-on training with a licensed professional.

Program participants must be residents of Illinois and

have a business address within 50 miles of the underserved counties, as well as complete the course and IEMA exam by Sept. 30, 2018.

The counties include Alexander, Edwards, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Randolph, Saline, Union, Wabash, Washington, Wayne, White and Williamson.

For more information, contact Abby Brokaw with the American Lung Association in Illinois at 217-241-9026 or [Abby.Brokaw@Lung.org](mailto:Abby.Brokaw@Lung.org).

# Get Ready to Shake Out.

The Great Central U.S.  
**Shake Out**™

**October 19, 10:19 a.m.**

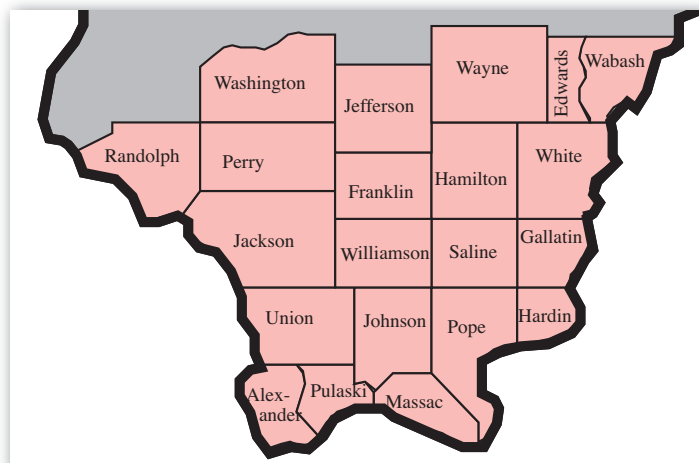


State of Illinois

Funded by a cooperative agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Grant Number EMW-2016-CA-00093.



**Register at [www.ShakeOut.org/centralus](http://www.ShakeOut.org/centralus)**



**Previous issues of Inside IEMA are available at:**  
**<http://www.illinois.gov/iema/Info/Pages/Newsletters.aspx>.**



**State of Illinois**  
Illinois Emergency Management Agency

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